

**Clean Set of Claims**

1. Device for milking animals, comprising at least one milking stall with means (1, 2, 3) for extracting milk, means (3, 4) for de-aerating the milk which has been extracted and means (6) for conveying de-aerated milk to a milk tank (11) for storage for a prolonged period, characterized in that the storage volume (12) of the milk tank (11) is a closed chamber with a variable volume which corresponds to the volume of the milk stored in the milk tank (11).

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2. Device according to claim 1, characterized in that the device comprises cooling means (9, 10) for cooling the milk to approximately the storage temperature while the milk is being conveyed to the milk tank.

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3. Device according to claim 2, characterized in that the milk tank is positioned in a cooled environment and is provided with cool walls.

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4. Device according to claim 1 characterized in that at least part of a wall (31) of the milk tank (11) is made from a flexible material.

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5. Device according to claim 4, characterized in that inner sides of walls (31) of the milk tank (11) are smooth and free of corners.

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6. Device according to claim 5, characterized in that the milk tank (11) is rotationally symmetrical.

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7. Device according to claim 4 characterized in that the milk tank (11) is positioned in a receptacle (30) for supporting the flexible walls (31).

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8. Device according to claim 1, characterized in that the milk tank has a movable wall (21) and a fixed wall (15), and sealing means (18) for sealing the opening between the movable wall (21) and the fixed wall (15).

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9. Device according to claim 8, characterized in that the sealing means (18) are attached to the movable wall (21) and are shaped to form a rinsing chamber (B) which is open towards the fixed wall (15) and means (16) for circulating rinsing water through the rinsing chamber (B).

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10. Device according to claim 8 characterized in that at least part of the movable wall (21) and the fixed wall (27) have double-walls and means (19, 20) for circulating cooling liquid through space in the double walls.

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11. Device according to claim 8, characterized in that at least part of the walls (15, 21, 27) is made of glass.

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12. Device according to claim 1 characterized in that the milk tank (11) is transportable.

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13. Device according to claim 1, characterized in that the milk tank has at least one wall (27) provided with an opening for introducing spray means into the closed chamber (12).

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14. Device according to claim 1, characterized in that the milk tank (11) is provided with signaling means for signaling the storage volume (12) has reached its maximum.

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16. Device according to claim 1 comprising a milking line (104) between the milking cups (101) and a storage tank (117, 118, 119, 120), a discharge line (103) between the milking cups (101) and a discharge vessel (116) for the purpose of discharging cleaning liquid or first contaminated milk, and a control system (108) and further characterized in that the device comprises at least two milk tanks (117, 118, 119, 120) which can be connected to the milking line (104) and switching means (112, 113) connected to the control system (108), for connecting the milking line (104) to one of the milk tanks.

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17. Device according to claim 16, characterized in that the device comprises identification means (107) for identifying animals which are to be milked and memory means (108) which determine the expected concentration of a specific substance in and/or property of the milk from an identified animal.

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19. Device according to claim 16, characterized in that sensor means (110) for milk are incorporated in the milking line (104), for measuring the concentration of a specific substance and/or a specific property in the milk.

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20. Device according to one of claims 16 characterized in that there are plurality of milking stalls (P, Q, R), which each comprise switching means (112, 113) for coupling the milking line (104) to one of the milk tanks (117, 118, 119, 120).

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~~21~~. Method for milking animals using a device for milking animals wherein at least one milking stall has means (1, 2, 3) for extracting milk, means (3, 4) for de-aerating the milk which has been extracted and means (6) for conveying de-aerated milk to a milk tank (11) for storage for a prolonged period, and wherein the milk is transported within a closed chamber inside the milk tank to a remote site where the milk is discharged from the milk tank, the improvement comprising the step, characterized in that, after the milk tank (11) has been emptied the closed chamber (12) is connected to subatmospheric pressure in order to reduce the storage volume of the closed chamber.

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